

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A biomass resin composition comprising a phenolized biomass substance and a reactive substance having a melting point of at most 100°C and selected from the group consisting of butylphenol, octylphenol, nonylphenol, benzylphenol and benzyl phenyl ether.

2. (currently amended) The biomass resin composition of Claim 1, which comprises a product obtained by reacting a biomass substance, phenol and ~~a~~the reactive substance having a melting point of at most 100°C, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (withdrawn) The biomass resin composition of Claim 1, wherein said reactive substance is an oil that contains an aliphatic chain having an unsaturated bond.

6. (withdrawn) The biomass resin composition of Claim 1, wherein said reactive substance is drying oil.

7. (withdrawn) The biomass resin composition of Claim 6, wherein said drying oil is at least one oil selected from the group consisting of wood oil, linseed oil and cashew oil.

8. (original) The biomass resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the amount of said reactive substance is 3 to 50 % by weight based on the total biomass resin composition.

9. (original) The biomass resin composition of Claim 1, wherein said biomass substance is a lignocellulose substance.

10. (currently amended) A process for preparing ~~the a~~ biomass resin composition of Claim 1, ~~which comprises~~ comprising a phenolized biomass substance and a reactive substance having a melting point of at most 100°C and selected from the group consisting of butylphenol, octylphenol, nonylphenol, benzyphenol and benzyl phenyl ether, the process comprising adding ~~a the~~ reactive substance or a precursor of ~~a the~~ reactive substance to ~~the a~~ reaction system, in ~~the a~~ step of preparing ~~a the~~ phenolized biomass substance by phenolizing a biomass substance with a phenol in the presence of an acid catalyst.

11. (withdrawn) The process for preparing a biomass resin composition of Claim 10, wherein said precursor of a reactive substance is benzyl alcohol.

12. (original) The process for preparing a biomass resin composition of Claim 10, wherein the amount of said reactive substance is 3 to 50 % by weight based on the total biomass resin composition.

13. (currently amended) The process for preparing a biomass resin composition of Claim 10, wherein after reacting ~~a~~the biomass substance, a the reactive substance and ~~a~~the phenol in the presence of an acid catalyst, reaction is conducted with an aldehyde or an aldehyde derivative.

14. (withdrawn) A curable biomass resin composition comprising at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hexamethylenetetramine, epoxy resin, phenol-resol resin, urea resin, melamine resin, polyamide acid and polyvalent isocyanate; and the biomass resin composition of Claim 1.

15. (withdrawn) A binder comprising the curable biomass resin composition of Claim 14.

16. (withdrawn) A molding material of thermosetting biomass resin comprising the curable biomass resin composition of Claim 14.

17. (withdrawn) A molded article comprising the binder of Claim 15 or the molding material of thermosetting biomass resin of Claim 16.